

POISONOUS LIQUOR HAS CLAIMED 41 VICTIMS, CHIEFLY IN CHICOPEE

Many Other Persons Are in Hospitals Blinded or Seriously Ill, and Some Are Not Expected to Recover—Widespread Distribution of Liquid Feared.

WOOD ALCOHOL WAS PROBABLY USED TO MAKE IT

Liquor Has Been Traced to Hartford, Conn., But It Is Believed the Stuff Was Manufactured in New York City—The Federal, State and Local Authorities at Work on Case.

Chicopee, Mass., Dec. 27.—The death of at least 41 persons in three Connecticut valley cities since Christmas night as a result of drinking poisonous liquor, believed to contain a wood alcohol base, caused state and local authorities in three states to make a determined effort to locate the origin of the intoxicant. Twenty-four men and one woman died here, 19 in Hartford, Conn., and six in Holyoke. A score of others were in hospitals, blinded or seriously ill. Several were not expected to live.

The wholesale distribution of the liquor, officials say, has been traced to Hartford, where four men are under arrest, charged with murder. Two men have been arrested here, charged with manslaughter. Other arrests are expected. The police believe the liquor was manufactured in New York, and the police in that city are assisting in the inquiry.

The police here were armed with search warrants to-day and were ordered to search all suspected places. Five of the seven additional deaths reported here since yesterday were of persons who became ill in their homes, and the police believe there may be many other cases of sickness of the same kind not yet reported. Medical Examiner Fletcher announced that autopsies performed during the night indicated that death had been caused by wood alcohol.

Reports from Hartford that wholesale shipments of the liquor believed to have caused the deaths had been made to many cities and towns in this vicinity aroused the police to a diligent search of the district and led District Attorney Joseph B. Ely of Westfield to request the assistance of the state police.

12 BARRELS OF FLUID BOUGHT IN NEW YORK

Department of Justice Officials Have Traced the "Whiskey" to That City.

New York, Dec. 27.—Federal agents, health authorities and police in many cities in the east, united to-day in a campaign against traffic in "whiskey" made from wood alcohol, following the wave of death and blindness in this case in Massachusetts and Connecticut. The death list of victims of Christmas "cheer" in these states had reached a total of more than 40 early to-day. Officials declared it probable that unreported cases by the score exist from coast to coast. Warning has been issued here by agencies co-operating in the fight, telling the public of the danger lurking in anything that passed for whiskey in saloons.

Arrests were expected in New York to-day in connection with the deaths in Chicopee Falls and Holyoke, Mass., and Hartford, Conn., the three cities hardest hit by the poisonous liquor. Three men are under arrest in Hartford, charged with murder. The police allege that they bought 12 barrels of the fluid in the Bronx for \$12,000, which they took to Hartford by motor truck, where water was added. Then it was sold, according to the police, in other cities. Department of justice agents announced that they have traced the "whiskey" to New York, where they say it was made.

A scientific fight against all poisonous substitutes for liquor has been started. In addition to the crusade against wood alcohol, Dr. Royal S. Copeland, commissioner of health, has announced that the department will analyze home-made drinks.

Some of the substitutes for whiskey, made according to receipts widely advertised contain fuel oil, and other dangerous ingredients, according to the commission. A determination of what is made to find out if any methyl alcohol is being diverted from paint shops or other industrial use and re-sold for beverage purposes.

ONE DRINK BRINGS BLINDNESS.

And May Even Produce Death—Chicago Has Epidemics of Deaths.

Chicago, Dec. 27.—County and city officials here to-day joined hands for a crusade against selling wood alcohol as a beverage. Wood alcohol, since July 1, has killed approximately 35 men. Four to-day were in hospitals from drinking wood alcohol and four died yesterday.

"We have held inquests on 28 or 30

bodies since July 1, all victims of this drug," said Peter M. Hoffman, coroner of Cook county. "I expect a lot more in a few days from New York celebrations."

One ordinary drink of wood alcohol can make a man permanently blind and sometimes kill him, Mr. Hoffman said. Two men who sold wood alcohol to men who died after drinking it have been held for the grand jury on murder charges.

A city ordinance which would limit sale of wood alcohol to commercial men alone, and remove it from drug stores and saloons, is expected to be submitted in a few days.

VICTIMS IN CLEVELAND.

Nine More Patients Were Added to the Hospital List To-day.

Cleveland, Dec. 27.—Nine additional victims of wood alcohol poisoning were in Cleveland hospitals to-day, raising the death list from that cause to 14. In the same period three deaths have been attributed to wood or denatured alcohol poisoning, placing the fatality toll for the month at 14.

FIVE VICTIMS AT NEWARK.

Two More Deaths To-day from Alcohol Poisoning.

Newark, N. J., Dec. 27.—Wood alcohol poisoning to-day caused the deaths of two persons in this city hospital, bringing the death list from that cause to five during the past two weeks.

THIRTEEN DEAD AT HARTFORD.

That Was Wood Alcohol Toll Up to Noon To-day.

Hartford, Conn., Dec. 27.—Thirteen persons had died here from wood alcohol poisoning up to noon to-day.

FOURTEEN BARRELS OF RUM STOLEN

Was Relled Out of Bonded Warehouse in New York—Selected Stock Taken.

New York, Dec. 27.—Fourteen barrels of rum, valued at \$14,000, were stolen from a bonded warehouse on the lower west side during the Christmas holiday, the police announced to-day. The stolen stock was carefully selected from among 6,000 barrels of liquor in the warehouse, which was not under guard, rolled out of the building, loaded onto motor trucks and taken away.

MILLIONS OF BOTTLES TO BE CONCEALED

In Labyrinthine Wine Cellars Beneath Cities of Rheims and Epemay—Germans Took Little of Stock.

Rheims, Dec. 27.—Labyrinthine wine cellars beneath the cities of Rheims and Epemay are being rapidly put in order by the big champagne firms of the two cities. These cellars, which would form a subterranean gallery 60 miles in length, hold hundreds of millions of bottles of precious vintages, and, notwithstanding the fact that this region was for four years under fire from German or allied guns, they suffered comparatively little damage.

Losses incurred by the wine industry, while they will place a heavy burden on firms for a while, will be recouped in a short time, according to statements made to the Associated Press correspondent, who is visiting the former battle zone under special permission from the French government.

German soldiers took very little wine from the cellars when they swept southward over this district in 1914. Probably confident that their advance meant permanent occupation of the champagne region, they saved the cellars from pillage at the time and when the reaction came they were forced to retreat so rapidly they had little opportunity to invade the underground stores. Four years of bombardment destroyed the greater part of the handsome buildings erected by the wine companies, but the most of the damage done to the stocks is attributed to French and allied soldiers. Fighting men made unofficial requisitions termed "ransom," and these cost the cellars about 325,000 bottles, including many "reserved" vintages. Frequently irresponsible soldiers would bore holes in huge casks of unbotled wine and, after filling a bucket, would permit the remainder in the cask to be wasted. It is believed one million bottles were lost in this way.

Champagne firms, however, accepted their losses cheerfully, believing the allied soldiers were entitled to the wine. Six months' time will be required to collect scattered unlabelled bottles. The council also considered the nature of the reply to the Swiss memorandum concerning the entry of Switzerland into the league of nations. The council will reply to the Swiss suggestion that its entry into the league be subject to certain conditions.

The report on the negotiations with the Germans over the troop transportation question was laid before the council by General Weigand. The report revealed that the Germans had declared that because of lack of material it was impossible to supply the six trains daily demanded by the allies. They made an offer of four trains a day for the time required.

UNSETTLED WEATHER

And Temperatures Below Normal Predicted for Next Week.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 27.—Weather predictions for the week beginning Monday, issued by the weather bureau to-day, are unsettled with occasional low snows and temperatures somewhat below normal.

TWO YEARS IN PRISON.

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Winnipeg, Dec. 27.—R. B. Russell, leader of the general strike here last May, who was found guilty Wednesday of sedition conspiracy, to-day was sentenced to two years imprisonment.

WILSON WILL BE 63 YEARS OLD TO-MORROW

Patient's Progress Toward Recovery Was Reported To-day to Be Continuing.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 27.—President Wilson will be 63 years old to-morrow. His daughters, Mrs. William G. McAdoo and Mrs. Francis B. Sayre, expressed a desire a week or 10 days ago to be at the White House for his anniversary, and they may come.

Rear-Admiral Grayson, the president's physician, said to-day his patient's progress continues and that the president was in good spirits.

BARCLAY BROS. INSURE ALL THEIR EMPLOYEES

Novel Christmas Present Given the Men—No Expense to the Men—Insurance Increases With the Length of Service.

Each of the employees of Barclay Brothers was presented an unusual Christmas gift during the afternoon of Dec. 24, in the shape of a life insurance policy issued by one of the leading companies. The amounts ranged from \$250 to \$2,000 each, depending upon the length of service. These policies apply after a period of three months' service and are based upon the following schedule:

For less than one year continuous active service, \$250; for one year but less than two years of continuous active service, \$500; for two years but less than three years of continuous active service, \$750; for three years but less than four years of continuous active service, \$1,000; for four years but less than five years of continuous active service, \$1,250; for five years but less than ten years of continuous active service, \$1,500; for ten years but less than fifteen years of continuous active service, \$1,750; for fifteen years or more years of continuous active service, \$2,000.

This method of group insurance requires no physical examination and, so far as known, is entirely new in the granite industry. A very interesting feature of the insurance is the fact that it automatically increases to correspond with the term of service, so that an employee who has worked continuously nine years for the firm and now holds a \$1,000 policy will receive a revised one for \$1,250 one year hence if still so employed. These policies are to be kept in force by Barclay Brothers at no expense to the workmen, and they do not in any way conflict with or take the place of the regular workmen's compensation protection.

In presenting these, the employees, about 100 in number, were called together, and William Barclay gave a general explanation of the idea and voiced his appreciation of the long and faithful service of many of the workmen, two of whom entered the service of the company in September, 1891—28 years ago. The service of a number of others dated from 15 to fully 20 years ago. Questions were asked and satisfactorily answered as regards the continuation of the policies during visits abroad, periods of extended illness, etc. At the conclusion of the conference, the employees voiced their appreciation by a hearty cheer.

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BANK BURNED OUT.

And Along With It Three Stores at Broomfield, N. Y.

Broomfield, N. Y., Dec. 27.—The building occupied by the State bank of Broomfield, three adjoining stores were destroyed by fire to-day, causing a loss of about \$100,000. The bank's records and securities were in a fireproof vault.

D'ANNUNZIO IS BEING DESERTED

Leaders Associated With Him Are Reported to Have Left Fiume

LEADER ASKS NITTI TO SETTLE MATTER

Before the Premier Leaves to Confer With the Allies Further

Rome, Dec. 27.—Gabriele D'Annunzio is understood to have asked Premier Nitti to postpone his announced visit to London on the ground that his departure should be preceded by the reaching of a definite settlement of the Fiume question between D'Annunzio and the Italian government.

Lieutenant Commander Rizzo, Major Giurini, chief of D'Annunzio's cabinet, and other leaders associated with D'Annunzio, are said to have left the Fiume district.

Premier Nitti plans to go to London from Rome and from that city to return to Paris to attend the meeting of the allied premiers and foreign ministers, which is expected to begin next week, according to a statement bearing a semi-official character printed in the Corriere d'Italia to-day. It is stated that the premier believes he will be able to come to an understanding with the British premier on problems closely affecting Italy.

Ignorant of Nitti's hopes to obtain from England financial treatment similar to that granted France, especially relative to a loan which will have its influence upon the exchange situation, the newspaper says, "The premier will do his best to have the supreme council agree that the allied and associated governments will recognize Italy's sovereignty over Italian towns, first of all Fiume, and that they will accept the result of negotiations between Italy and Jugoslavina."

"It is feared that the drama of Fiume would end as a grotesque opera," the Corriere says, in commenting upon the Italian situation.

The most authoritative companions of Captain D'Annunzio in his adventure are abandoning him in his dream of acting the little tyrant of the 14th century. He does not realize the situation, however, but dresses himself as a corporal of storm troops and plays the king among the soldiers, indifferent to the opposition of all Fiume and all Italy. Everybody agrees to-day in depicting D'Annunzio as a naughty, dangerous boy lighting fire next to powder magazine, who has supplied him with nationalist matches, and is there no one to lead this bad boy away by the ear?

"The Adriatic sea will be the shade of civilization and peace when Fiume becomes a city of the future," declared Deputy Sembenelli, in an interview printed in the Giornale d'Italia. "There is no other solution except a peace dangerous to the world. After bolshevism civilization to-day is threatened by impulsive Slav preponderance. The Mediterranean must have its dyke, which is represented by the Danube Alps (forming the frontier of Dalmatia and Bosnia). Fiume must be annexed without restriction to Italy. Let Premier Nitti beware of continuing the policy of a beggar and a Jeremiah. The only way to earn credit abroad is to be firm in our will."

COMMITTEE GOVERNMENT.

Has Been Set Up by Revolutionary Socialists in Irkutsk.

Paris, Dec. 27.—Revolutionary socialists have formed a committee government in Irkutsk, Siberia, where the all-Russian government of Admiral Kolchak established his headquarters after being driven from Omsk, according to news received in French official circles to-day. The revolutionists, took possession of the Irkutsk station on the trans-Siberian railway, the reports state.

Premier Poincaré, of the Kolchak government, is absent from Irkutsk, being on his way west to meet Admiral Kolchak, for a conference regarding the formation of a new ministry. M. Treteckoff, the new minister of foreign affairs, also left Irkutsk recently to meet General Semenov, the Cossack leader in the Baikal region.

Taking advantage of the absence of the principal members of the government, the socialists, according to the advices, organized an insurrection.

It is considered doubtful here whether Admiral Kolchak will find anything of his government when he finally gets to Irkutsk, and it is not definitely known. (Dispatches from Irkutsk early this month announced that Admiral Kolchak and his staff had established their headquarters at Taga. This town, together with Tomsk, just to the north, has since been reported by the bolsheviks.) He is reported to have encountered great difficulties with detachments of Czech-Slovak troops which are en route to Vladivostok by the trans-Siberian railway. These troops have been guarding sections of the line and have not succeeded in getting along well with Admiral Kolchak.

Reports of bolsheviks are now not far from the Baikal district, which is raising the question in diplomatic circles here how Japan will look upon the prospect of the presence of Lenin's forces in the immediate proximity to Japanese sphere of influence. It is supposed here that conversations are already in progress between Tokyo and Washington regarding the Siberian question as affected by the advance of the bolsheviks and the weakening of the Kolchak government.

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15 PEOPLE FACING STARVATION ON ISLAND

Canadian Government Lighthouse and Wireless Station Help Are Isolated at Belle Isle.

Quebec, Dec. 27.—Fifteen persons in the government lighthouse and wireless station at Belle Isle are in danger of death by starving to-day because of the failure of the delivery of their winter provisions. A telegram received here from Belle Isle said that the government employees, including two lighthouse keepers, three wireless operators and their wives and children were isolated from the rest of the world and had but a scanty supply of provisions. The government steamer Arammore, loaded with provisions for their relief, foundered a few weeks ago. The food was then transferred to the government steamer Montcalm, now at Bonne Bay, N. P., but she has been delayed in reaching the government stations because of the bad weather and ice packs. The Montcalm is only a day's run from Belle Isle.

IVY DIVISION REUNION.

Former Soldiers from Many States Are Gathering in New York.

New York, Dec. 27.—Former soldiers from many states assembled in New York to-day for a reunion and smoker of the Ivy division. More than a thousand men are expected to attend. Brigadier General Benjamin A. Poor, president of the Ivy association, now at Fort D. A. Russell, Wyoming, will preside. Major General Mark L. Hersey, who commanded the division during the Argonne drives, will be the guest of honor. Brigadier General A. B. Abbott, commanding the 4th field artillery brigade, also will be a guest.

RUSH OF IMMIGRANTS

CROWDS ELLIS ISLAND

There Are So Many Newcomers That There May Be No Chance for Deportations.

New York, Dec. 27.—Heavy immigration is so taxing the facilities of Ellis Island that officials expressed doubt to-day whether there would be another concentration of anarchists there in the near future for deportation.

During the last 48 hours some 8,000 immigrants have arrived in port and to-day 1,168 were detained at the island for further examination as to their fitness for admission to this country. The personnel at the island is not large enough to handle any more, it was said. Anarchists confined at Hartford, Conn., and other cities waiting deportation will probably remain there for some time, it was said, before arrangements can be made for another "soviet ark." There are only about two dozen anarchist cases at Ellis Island now.

SUSPECT TWO SAILORS.

In Connection with Breaks in Southern Vermont.

Brattleboro, Dec. 27.—Railroad stations at Townshend and Williamsville, on the West River branch of the Central Vermont railroad were found broken into yesterday when the station agents arrived to begin their day's work. Apparently the burglars had a key that fitted the outer door at Townshend, but Station Agent E. S. Wheeler says they forced the office door and secured about \$10 in pennies in rolls.

The burglars forced a door at Williamsville, broke open a barrel of Christmas gifts and stole the contents and also forced the ticket office window and stole a package of 250 tickets from Williamsville to Brattleboro. Station Agent E. R. Willard had left no money at the station.

Two sailors who disappeared from Townshend Thursday night after looking through the door of their room and jumping from a window are wanted by State's Attorney E. W. Gibson.

HOLD-UP MAN WAS SLAIN IN CHASE

Philip LaHoud Shot by Policemen in New York After He Had Held Up Patrons of a Restaurant.

New York, Dec. 27.—While attempting to escape from a restaurant on the lower west side, where he is alleged to have held up the patrons early to-day, Philip LaHoud of Newport, R. I., was shot and killed by Patrolman John J. Wimmer. LaHoud, a Syrian, previously had shot one of the patrons in the head and had fired three shots at the patrolman.

DIED IN RAILROAD STATION.

Marcus Aldrich, Civil War Veteran, Was Visiting in Brattleboro.

Brattleboro, Dec. 27.—Marcus Aldrich of Winchendon, Mass., a Civil War veteran, died of heart disease in the union station here yesterday afternoon. He came here to visit over Christmas and was in the waiting room waiting for a train when stricken. Employees at the station called Dr. E. R. Lyford, but Mr. Aldrich died in a few minutes. His name was learned through the Christmas cards in his pocket. He was well dressed and wore a large diamond ring. He was a member of the Masonic lodge in Amherst, Mass. His wife is dead.

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WILL REVISE NAVY AWARDS

Sec. Daniels Calls Board to Consider the Data and Make Recommendation

MORE PROTESTS HAVE BEEN PRESENTED

Admiral Henry B. Wilson and Rear-Admiral Henry T. Mayo Write Daniels

Washington, D. C., Dec. 27.—In revising the lists of naval decorations to be awarded officers for their services during the war, the Knight board, Secretary Daniels said to-day, will be instructed to follow in general the same policy adopted by the secretary in revising the original lists.

At the same time, Mr. Daniels said, the board would give full consideration to the views expressed by Rear-Admiral Sims and other high officers who have objected to the manner in which the decorations thus far announced were awarded.

The secretary added that he hoped the new recommendations of the board would be approved by him without amendment. The revised report either will be sent to President Wilson for final action, or acted upon by the secretary on behalf of the president.

In discussing his order of last night reconvening the board to review cases already considered and act upon additional recommendations made recently, Mr. Daniels disclosed that Admiral Henry B. Wilson and Rear-Admiral Henry T. Mayo had written him calling attention to what they described as inequalities in the awards recently announced.

Admiral Wilson commands the Atlantic fleet and was in charge of American naval forces in French waters during the war. Admiral Mayo commanded the Atlantic fleet during the war and is a member of the navy general board.

The whole subject of naval decorations will be investigated by a joint Senate and House naval subcommittee when Congress reconvenes. Representative Lufkin, Republican, Massachusetts, said to-day, after a conference with members of the Senate naval committee.

No resolution authorizing the investigation is necessary, Mr. Lufkin said, adding that Secretary Daniels, Rear-Admiral Knight, Rear-Admiral Sims and other officers would be summoned.

Officers reported to have followed Rear-Admiral Sims' lead in declining medals were Vice Admiral Hiram P. Jones, commander of squadron two of the Atlantic fleet, with the battleship Connecticut as his flagship, and Captain Raymond D. Hasbrouck, commanding officer of the battleship Minnesota. Captain Hasbrouck, confirming advices received from Rear-Admiral Sims, had decided to take his stand with Rear-Admiral Sims, said that he "thoroughly concurred" with the view of his brother officer, that officers who lost their ships should not be decorated and declared that, therefore, having lost a ship, he would decline the decoration, but he would not accept the navy cross for which he was recommended. Vice Admiral Jones was recommended for the distinguished service medal.

Secretary Daniels in his order reconvening the Knight board on Jan. 5, said: "While approving the main recommendations of the board of recommendations, my examination into the subject has convinced me that there are a number of cases requiring further examination and there have been additional recommendations since your board adjourned which require examination by a board of officers. The board was directed to Rear-Admiral Austin McKnight, senior member of the board."

First hint of a disagreement regarding the distribution of war honors to naval officers came with the announcement that Rear-Admiral Sims, now head of the Naval War college at Newport, R. I., had written a letter to Secretary Daniels declining the medal offered him on the ground that recommendations he had made for decorations for officers on his staff had been forgotten and that the secretary by failing to follow the recommendations of commanding officers and awarding decorations to suit himself, had caused widespread injustice and a weakening of morale among naval officers.

Rear-Admiral Sims submitted a list of 11 officers who served under him abroad, recommending all for the distinguished service medal. After the Knight board, with Secretary Daniels, reviewed the cases, 13 of the recommendations were reduced to navy crosses.

This action formed the basis for the Sims list. Following publication of Rear-Admiral Sims' statement, Secretary Daniels was called upon by the Senate naval affairs committee for a detailed report on the subject. A large force of clerks is now busy preparing the report.

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And Along With It Three Stores at Broomfield, N. Y.

Broomfield, N. Y., Dec. 27.—The building occupied by the State bank of Broomfield, three adjoining stores were destroyed by fire to-day, causing a loss of about \$100,000. The bank's records and securities were in a fireproof vault.

MARKED HONOR FOR LABOR MAN

Reception for Alexander Ironside in Barre Last Evening

SUBSTANTIAL PURSE WAS PRESENTED

Messages of Congratulations from Many Sections of Vermont

After transacting business in regular meeting, the Central Labor union of Barre and vicinity last night adjourned into a reception in honor of Alexander Ironside of Barre, the well known leader of labor union matters in Vermont. The carpenter's hall was filled to its capacity with the friends and well-wishers of Mr. Ironside when James Cruikshank called the assemblage to order.

Seated on the platform were Mr. Ironside, president of the Central Labor union, William Eager, vice-president, Angus McDonald, secretary, and Fred W. Suitor, treasurer. A program of very entertaining numbers was given at the outset of the get-together. Miss Leona Lamb and Mrs. Alex McHaffie contributed vocal solos in a very efficient and acceptable manner. Robert Morrison seemed to be at his best on the mandolin and received several encores. An exhibition of highland dancing by the now well-known Naughton sisters took the audience by storm, and the little girls were encored again and again.

The chairman then spoke of the object for which the meeting was held, that of performing a duty long delayed, which seemed characteristic of labor organizations in failing to appreciate properly the special services rendered in their behalf. The chairman gave a brief outline of Mr. Ironside's work for many years back, especially insofar as it had reference to labor legislation, stating that such laws as weekly payment, trustee exemption, child labor, and many others, were the result of his inspection and work in Vermont. He now, and will always, bear the stamp of Mr. Ironside's work.